

Québec, April 23, 2004

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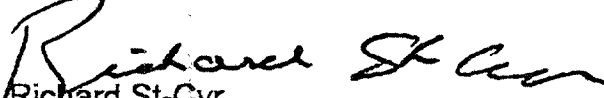
Mr. Richard H. Carmona, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.S.
VADM, USPHS
United States Surgeon General
Chairman, Secretary's Task Force on Importation
Office of the Surgeon General
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Mr. Carmona,

We would like to thank you very much for the invitation sent to Mr. Marc Ferland, from our Department, and myself to participate in the April 27 meeting of the FDA Task Force on Drug Importation. Unfortunately, we cannot accept your kind invitation since the Government of the Province of Quebec does not consider itself as a direct stakeholder with regards to the issue at the center of the consultation which is basically an internal American issue.

As Prime Minister Charest told Commissionner McClellan on January 23 in Davos, the Québec Government concerns are limited to the potential impacts on its pharmaceutical industries and their major R/D activities in Quebec of future commercial restrictions and on its public drug insurance regime. As a matter of fact, for your information and as it was explained to the FDA Representatives during their visit in Quebec City, Quebec's regulations are already stringent in not permitting a prescribed drug to be sold by a pharmacist to a patient who has not met physically a registered physician in Quebec. This enforced legislation therefore prohibits clearly any exportation of a prescribed drug to a foreign patient.

Thank you again for the invitation and please accept, Mr. Carmona, our greatest considerations.


Richard St-Cyr

Cc Mrs Susan Keogh-Fisher
Consul General
American General Consulate
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